

Appl No. 09/784,693  
Response dated May 25, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of March 22, 2005

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An improved cap for sealed joints between adjacent blocks, comprising:
  - a) a flexible body member, comprising a first substantially flat cap portion and a leg portion;
  - b) a plurality of ridges positioned across the entire underside of the flat cap portion contacting caulking sealant, the ridges defining a plurality of channels there between, the ridges further defining an increased area on the underside of the flat cap for the caulking sealant to adhere to;
  - c) the leg portion insertable into fluidized caulking sealant material within the joint between the adjacent blocks, to a depth so that when the underside of the flat cap portion imbeds into the caulking sealant material the plurality of ridges with the fluidized caulking sealant provide for providing a sealed connection between the entire underside of the flat cap portion and the fluidized caulking sealant material residing in the joint and on an upper surfaces of the adjacent blocks.
2. (Previously Presented) The improved cap in claim 1, wherein the cap is constructed of material having the characteristics of lead.
3. (Original) The improved cap in claim 1, wherein the leg member further comprises a pointed end having shoulder members for adhering within the sealant material.
4. (Original) The improved cap in claim 1, wherein the plurality of ridges and channels on the underside of the cap portion define a means for adhering to the fluidized sealant and the upper portion of the adjacent blocks for withstanding movement and preventing damage to the sealed joint.
5. (Original) The improved cap in claim 1, wherein the cap may be positioned to

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seal a joint between horizontal and vertical surfaces.

6. (Currently Amended) An improved cap for sealed joints between adjacent building members, comprising:

a) a flexible body member, comprising a first flat cap portion having a first smooth upper surface, an undersurface, and a leg portion extending down from the undersurface;

b) a plurality of ridges positioned across and contacting substantially the entire undersurface of the cap portion, defining a plurality of channels there between, the plurality of ridges and channels increasing the surface area on the underside of the cap by around 50% for the caulking sealant to adhere to, thus strengthening the seal between the cap and the concrete or stone blocks the cap is set upon;

c) fluidized caulking sealant material placed within the joint between the adjacent building members;

d) the leg portion insertable into the fluidized caulking sealant material to a depth so that the underside of the flat cap portion imbeds into the caulking sealant material for providing a sealed connection between the underside of the cap and the fluidized caulking sealant material residing in the joint and on surfaces of the adjacent blocks.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The improved cap in claim 6, wherein the underside of the cap increases the area for the sealant to adhere to, improving bonding between the cap and the stones and strengthening the seal between the two.

9. (Original) The improved cap in claim 6, wherein the cap comprises a continuous strip of flexible material extending uninterrupted over the joint which needs to be sealed.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of sealing a joint between adjacent building blocks, comprising the following steps:

a) filling the joint with a fluidized caulking [scaling] sealant material such as

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- caulking;
- b) providing a cap, the cap having a flat cap portion and a downward depending leg portion;
- c) inserting the leg portion down in to the fluidized caulking [scaling] sealant material to a point that an underside of the flat cap portion makes sealing contact with the fluidized caulking [scaling] sealant material;
- d) providing a plurality of ridges on an underside of the flat cap and contacting the caulking sealant material across the entire underside of the cap, the ridges defining a plurality of channels there between, the ridges and channels increasing the area on the underside of the cap for the caulking sealant material to adhere to, improving the bond between the cap and the stones and strengthening the seal between the two.
11. (Original) The method in claim 10, further comprising the step of removing the excess sealant material from around the cap before the sealant completely sets.
12. (Original) The method in claim 10, the insertion of the leg portion of the cap down into the [scaling] sealant material decreases the size of a joint by one half therefore defining two joint spaces, rather than a single space.